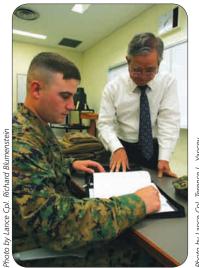


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MARINES HOPE TO EXPERIENCE OKINAWA'S CULTURE

pg. 8

BIG CIRCLE



大きな輪



MAKING THE TRANSITION

New Japanese employees describe their experiences working on

Marine Corps installations in a survey conducted by Big Circle.

MARINE CORPS 101 | MARINE CORPS UNIFORMS

Throughout a 231-year history, Marine Corps uniforms have served as a symbol of pride and bravery.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Nearly 150 Americans from the U. S. military community on

Okinawa participate in a study to help researchers learn how a traditional Okinawan diet affects the health of Westerners.

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BIG CIRCLE 大きな輪

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Service members renew perspective on Okinawa

Kaori Tanahara

pring is considered as the season of renewal. This edition of Big Circle features articles with the theme "a new start.'

By taking a closer look at those who recently started new jobs on Marine Corps bases, like Marines and sailors who recently started their assignments in Okinawa as well as Japanese employees who have begun their new careers on base, we hope to share their perspectives and experiences with you.

Just as April is when the Japanese school year begins, it is also the month in which many Japanese decide to challenge themselves to learn a foreign language. In this month's article on four Marines who study Japanese in college classes, readers will learn how learning Japanese renewed and changed the outlook these service members have on Japan, its culture and traditions.

The article on local researchers studying the effects of traditional Okinawan diet provides an excellent example of collaboration between the Okinawan and American communities, while also showing how some of the American study participants began to apply their new appreciation of traditional Okinawan diets into their daily lives.

This edition's "Marine Corps 101," a series that highlights different aspects of Marine Corps culture and tradition, spotlights Marine Corps uniforms. There are various types of uniforms worn by each branch of the U.S. military. For Marines, their uniforms remain historic symbols of camaraderie and esprit de corps, while being updated to adapt to new and changing challenges Marines face around the world.

Lastly, the article on the Marines and sailors who volunteered at a local facility for the physically-disabled introduces one example of hospitality between the facility's children, adults and staff and the U. S. service members.

I hope that by reading our articles you will renew your interest in the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine community on Okinawa.

海季し皆事し後がルでる海軍ます。 ラ兵のてさでてにれた、新兵です。

かやや施

でも変わらずに受いても変わらずに受いてとり上げについてとり上げについてもり上げを表するの精神」を表すするに対応し変れすで直で表する。米

onthecover



Sgt. Euqirne Drum, Headquarters Company, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, receives a victory kiss from Kodai Nakamura, 10, on behalf of her teammates for finishing in second place in the power-walk relay race during the Okinawa Children's Development Center's recreation session at the Awase Children's Park March 29. Drum and 34 other Marines and sailors volunteered to spend time with the children and adults with physical disabilities at the center. 3月29日に泡瀬児童公園で行われた沖縄 小児発達センターのレク活動中、競歩リレーで 2位になったチームメイトを代表して、同センタ -所属の仲村高大くん(10)に勝利のキスをもら うユキ・ドラム3等軍曹 Photo by Kaori Tanahara

2 · 大きな輪 · 2007年 春号 SPRING 2007 · BIG CIRCLE · 3 visit the Futenma Shrine Jan. 26, 2006, during a tour sponsored by the Single Marine Program 2006年1月に3 ングル・マリン プログラム主催の



Marines expect to learn culture, enjoy Okinawa

Living and working in a foreign country for the first time is not easy for anyone. However, Marines who have just arrived in Okinawa are excited to be starting their new life here, according to the Marines and sailors who answered an informal survey and interviews conducted by Big Circle.

Kaori Tanahara

o ease their transition to life overseas, the Joint Reception Center (JRC) provides newcomers' orientation and administrative processing for Marines in the rank of E-5 (sergeant) and below who are assigned to Okinawa in an unaccompanied status (single Marines or those whose families remain in the United States). This processing occurs within the first week that a new Marine is on island.

With an average of 100 Marines and sailors who arrive in Okinawa each week, the JRC features experts in Japanese culture and laws, the Status of Forces Agreement, recreation, education programs available on and off base, and financial management.

To take a closer look at the newcomers to Okinawa, Big Circle conducted an informal survey of 90 Marines and sailors, from private to sergeant, between the ages of 17 and 29, who attended the February 12 JRC orientation on Camp Foster.

Of the service members surveyed, 68 held the rank of private first class. Seven of them were married on unaccompanied tours. Except for four of the attendees, this was their first assignment outside the United States. Many said that they joined the Marine Corps to see the world, to obtain government-funded

education benefits, and out of patriotism and love of country. The majority of them stated that they had requested Okinawa as their first assignment.

For Chris Rogers, joining the Marine Corps was a family tradition and he always wanted to come to Japan.

"My uncle was here and he said it's really nice and I'd like it," said Rogers, a 19-yearold private first class. Although everything seems different to the Maine native who described his new environment as "a big change in scenery and culture," Rogers said he will explore Okinawa as much as possible while he is attached to the 3rd Marine Division.

The survey results show that Marines are looking forward to new cultural and recreational experiences by visiting off base locations and learning Japanese.

"I'm looking forward to being here for the next couple years, visiting some places like Shinto shrines and learning a little bit about scuba diving," said Lance Cpl. Justin Clemens, who is assigned to the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. "I also want to try learning the language while working towards an associate or bachelor's degree in biology."

Knowing little about Okinawa before arriving, most Marines obtain information about their new home for the next two years from unit sponsors, word of mouth, and the Internet.



munication Battalion, said before he came to Okinawa, he conducted his own Internet searches and learned about places such as the Peace Memorial Park and the Churaumi Aquarium.

Images of Okinawa that Marines had before arriving here varied from "small villagelike atmosphere" to "big sky scrapers and a modern, high-tech place with lots of vending machines."

Sgt. Jerry Mazie, Jr., 24, said the first thing that came to his mind was the movie "Karate Kid," but was surprised to find that Okinawa was "more of a city-like atmosphere" than he imagined. "Mazie, who is assigned to the 3rd Marine Logistics Group, said he likes to see different things and talking to different people and that he enjoys being on Okinawa as not a lot of people get

"We want the Marines and sailors learn about the culture during the orientation," said Sgt. Sonny Gotis, senior troop handler of JRC. "We are ambassadors of the United States and the more we learn about the Japanese culture, the more respectful we become

文化を学び沖縄の生活を楽しみにする海兵隊員



Lance Cpl. Josh Gendron at Shuri Castle Jan.

等兵の写真を るマイク・ラ ov Lance Cpl. Cathryn Lindsay

SPRING 2007 · BIG CIRCLE · 5

Japanese employees discover careers, perspective on bases

Kaori Tanahara

hroughout the year, new Japanese employees begin working on Marine Corps bases in Okinawa. Observing on-base life from the other side of the fence for the first time, these employees increase their understanding of Marines, the Marine Corps and their appreciation for their jobs on base.

To find out how new Japanese employees view the Marine Corps and what their work means to them, Big Circle conducted an informal survey in February. Thirty-nine participants responded, and Big Circle interviewed several of the participants.

"Okinawa is a small place on earth, but I was surprised to find out that most people knew a lot about it," said Miwa Toyama, referring to people she met during a Department of Defense-hosted training held in the U. S. for new equal employment opportunity specialists from around the world.

The 29-year-old began her career as an EEO Specialist on Camp Foster in January.

"I've learned that there are different reasons why the bases are here. The military personnel transfers and deployments fit into current world affairs," she added. "Working on base puts into perspective for me the importance of the bases in Okinawa for both the United States and Japan."

Toma returned to Okinawa last September after graduating from a university and working as a social worker in the U.S. Working on base, she found that the military community is a dynamic and diverse society. Toma was also glad she found a job where she could apply her academic background and professional experience in an English-speaking environment.



Minoru Kiyuna operates mowing machine on the Awase Golf course Feb. 28. 2月28日、泡瀬ゴルフ場で 草刈機を操作する喜友名稔さん Photo by Kaori Tanahara

Mikinari Nakahodo, who has been working on Camp Hansen since January, used to think that Marines engage in mostly water-related missions because of images he has seen in news reports and films. Gaining a closer look at Marines at work has given him a better understanding of their jobs, said the 25-year-old boiler mechanic.

"Seeing the Marines training in the mountains, I learned that their activities frequently involve ground operations," not just on beaches.

Having landed a permanent position with Japanese government employee status after months, sometimes years, of waiting, many of the Japanese employees who work on base clearly enjoy their new work. Despite their concerns that future base realignments could negatively affect their jobs, many start pursuing new goals that they may not have thought possible before.

For Megumi Ahagon, entering the base employment system after 10 years of working in the private sector meant opening the door to better career opportunites. Ahagon was hired as a placement technician for the Marine Corps Civilian Human Resources Office last December.

"On base you can advance in your career, or gain different professional experience through job while maintaining salary and benefits," said Ahagon. "Chances like that are slim to none off base, especially for women."

To further her academic background, Ahagon plans to attend college on base after normal work hours to get a degree.

Working on base brought quite a change in lifestyle to Minoru Kiyuna, who before was working long-hours including weekends and holidays at a local company for nearly 20 years. Though it was only this January when Kiyuna obtained his permanent position of a golf course maintenance operator, he previously worked in the same job at the golf course for about two years as an employee of a temporary staffing agency.

"I took a chance entering the base workforce the way I did, hoping that by doing so I would have more time to spend with my children."

Kiyuna now gives serious consideration to what used to be a mere fantasy for him and his wife: to live in the U. S. after retirement.

"I will learn English as much as I can while at work," Kiyuna said.



日本人従業員 基地就職で視点、 キャリア新たに

規採用者として、年間を通し、日本人基 地従業員が在沖海兵隊基地に就職してい る。フェンスの内側から初めて見た基 地。新従業員は海兵隊に対する理解を深めると同 時に、仕事への感謝を新たにしている。

「大きな輪」では、日本人の新従業員が海兵隊や基地で働くということについてどのように考えているのかを知るため、アンケートを今年2月に実施した。39名が回答し、その内の数名に話を聞いた。

「沖縄は小さいかも知れないけど、殆どの人がよく知っていたのには驚きました」と話すのは當山美和さん(29)。新人の雇用均等(EEO)専門官に課された米国防省主催のアメリカ研修で出会った人々のことだった。「様々な理由で基地がここにあることや、ちゃんと今の世界状況に合わせて軍の人員が動き遠征なども行われていることがわかった」という當山さんは、1月にキャンプ・フォスターでEEO専門官としてのキャリアをスタートした。「基地に働き、沖縄の基地の重要性が日米の両方にとってどれだけ大きいかがわかった」と話す。

アメリカで大学を卒業し、ソーシャルワーカーとして働いた後、昨年9月に帰沖した當山さん。基地に就職して初めて米軍コミュニティーが多様で変化に富んだ社会だということを知ったという。 英語を話す環境で学んだ分野を活かせる仕事に就けた事が嬉しいと語った。

1月からキャンプ・ハンセンで働く仲程幹成さんは、ニュース映像などのイメージから海兵隊員は主に海で活動していると思っていた。身近に観察できることで、海兵隊員の仕事について関心が増したという25歳のボイラー工は、「空の訓練や山で訓練しているのを見て、地上の活動も頻繁にあるということがわかった」と話す。

何ヶ月、あるいは何年もの歳月をかけ、日本の公務員の地位が確保された職に就いた基地従業員。新しい職場を満喫している様子も伺える。将来の基地整理縮小がもたらす可能性のある悪い影響について懸念はあるが、多くの従業員が基地での就職とともに新しい目標を見出している。

基地で就職するということはキャリアアップの機会を広げること、と話すのは民間で10年働いたという阿波根恵さん。人事部の配置専門職として昨年12月に採用された。「基地内では仕事の可能性を広げられ、給料や福利厚生を維持しながら様々な職種を経験できます。そのような機会は民間では殆どありえません」と語る阿波根さんは、さらなる学歴向上を目指し、就業後に基地内大学に通い学位を取得することを考えている。

通い学位を取得することを考えている。 基地での就職は、20年近い地元の印刷会社勤務 では、週末や休日も含め長時間勤務は普通だった喜 友名稔さんの生活を一変した。基地内のゴルフコース整備士として喜友名さんが採用されたのは今年の 1月。だがそれまでの約2年間、喜友名さんは派遣 企業を通した臨時職員として同じ仕事をしていた。 「基地内への就職を希望し、そのような方法を取ったのは賭けでした。それでも、子供たちと過ごす時間ができればと思いました」と話す喜友名さん。 今、それまでは単なる夢だった退職後のアメリカへの移住について妻と真剣に話し合っているという。 「基地で働きながら英語もできるだけ勉強するつも りです」と語った。(文・棚原香) ig Circle conducted an informal survey of new Japanese employees who were hired between September 2006 and February 2007.

Of the 39 who responded to the survey, 19 were male and 20 were female. The average age was 31.9. The youngest person was 22 years old, while the oldest was 47. All but four of the respondents were employed in the private sector at the time of their transfer to the base employment system.

The respondents spent an average of two years and eight months from the time when they first applied for a base job to when actually started working on base. The period varies by individual, ranging from two months to 12 years.

As to the question on what attracted them to jobs on base, "opportunity to apply English skill or learn English on the job" topped others such as job security, benefits and salary.

Regarding the pros and cons about working on base, many commented that while acclimatizing to American and military cultures requires some time and effort at first, they said the work-to-hour environment on base allow them to enjoy more time to themselves after work than before.

All respondents said they want to continue to work on base, even if they could obtain similar pay and benefits in the private sector.

年9月から今年2月の半年間に、県内の海兵隊基地で働き始めた日本人従業員を対象に行ったアンケート。

回答者39名の内訳は男性19名で、女性20名。平均年齢は31.9歳。最年少は22歳で、最高齢は47歳。基地での就職前は、4名を除く全員が民間企業で働いていたという。

就職を申込んでから今回の採用までにかかった時間 は平均で2年8ヶ月。だが、この期間は2ヶ月から12年ま で、個人により様々だった。

基地への就職・転職を希望した理由として最も多く 上げられたのは、「英語を活かせる(英語が習得でき る)」こと。次点には「安定性」や「給料・福利厚生」 が続く。

基地に就職して良かった点、あるいは大変だと思う点については、アメリカや軍の文化に慣れるのに初めは時間と努力が必要だが、定時に仕事が終わる環境のため、以前より自分の自由になる時間を楽しむことができるとコメントした。

全員が今後も、たとえ民間で条件の良い就職先があっても、基地勤務を希望すると答えた。



preschoolers' snack break at Camp Kinser Child Development Center March 5. 3月5日、キャンプ・キンザー保育施設で就学前児童のおやつ時間後に片付けをするケアギバーの米須グレイスさん Photo by Kaori Tanahara

Marines juggle language training, jobs

Kaori Tanahara

espite having a busy life working and training, many Marines in Okinawa learn Japanese by taking college courses on base, experiencing the excitement of learning a new language.

More than 250 service members, civilians and dependents enrolled in 12 elementary-to-intermediate Japanese classes at the University of Maryland University College Asia during academic term III, which ran from Jan. 22 to March 17. UMUC Asia has five terms per year, with similar numbers of classes offered each term.

Marines invest their time learning Japanese while living and working in Japan may sound quite natural. However, unlike English, which is considered the world's most common language, Japanese proficiency has limited applicability outside Japan.

What are the reasons why many service members, who will leave Japan at the end of their tours, study Japanese at the college? Big Circle interviewed four Marines about their motivations and learning experiences while they were studying Japanese 111 and 112 during the third term at UMUC Asia.

Lance Cpl. Morgan Francies, of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, took her first Japanese class, JAPN 111, offered during lunch hours Monday through Thursday at the Camp Foster Education Center. Having lived in Okinawa for more than 13 months, Francies made the decision to learn Japanese so she wouldn't waste "the great opportunity to learn the language while being able to actually use it."

Besides the linguistic basics, she enjoyed learning about Japanese culture and society, said Francies. Following her instructor's advice, she also practiced conversations off base as often as possible, using newly learned phrases, including, "Kohee o onegaishimasu (May I have coffee, please?)," and, "Kore wa nandesuka (What

"I wish I took it earlier," said Francies. "I plan to continue studying the next term. I'd love to come back to Okinawa for another tour in the future especially because I know the language."

Staff Sgt. Mahadeo Ravindra, of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, also took JAPN 111, offered twice per week, on Camp Courtney. Since coming to Okinawa in



Asao Fukuyama shows a flash card to his JAPN 111 students to review hiragana characters during a class Feb. 6. 2月6日の授業で、フラッシュカードを使ってひらがなを復習するJAPN111の譜久山朝夫講師

2003, Ravindra said he had very few contacts with the local community due to his hectic daily life as a Marine staff noncommissioned officer and a father of two.

Last year, however, his 5-year-old daughter started attending an Uruma City preschool, which motivated him to study Japanese. Learning Japanese has made him more interested in the community, Ravindra said.

Every Monday and Wednesday night, Cpl. Philip Chung of Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, and Lance Cpl. Zachary Niemi of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, catch the last shuttle bus from Camp Schwab and Camp Hansen, respectively, to attend the JAPN 112 class that begins at 8 p.m. When the class ends at 10:45 p.m., both get a ride home from a friend who attends the same class and gets home around 11:30 p.m.

Chung has always been interested in Japanese culture and language since childhood because of his familiarity with Japanese comic books translated into Chinese or English and his sister who studied and worked in Japan, he said.

"I often volunteer to teach English at elementary schools and kindergartens in Nago," said Chung. "I wanted to speak with children in Japanese, too."

Having only a limited exposure to Japanese culture growing up in Massachusetts, Niemi said he would have never thought of studying Japanese if he was not stationed in Okinawa.

"The idea that you can actually connect with people more by knowing each other's language makes me feel good," said Niemi. "It makes things more enjoyable and rewarding for me."

Having the ultimate goal of being fluent in Japanese, Niemi plans continue her language training.

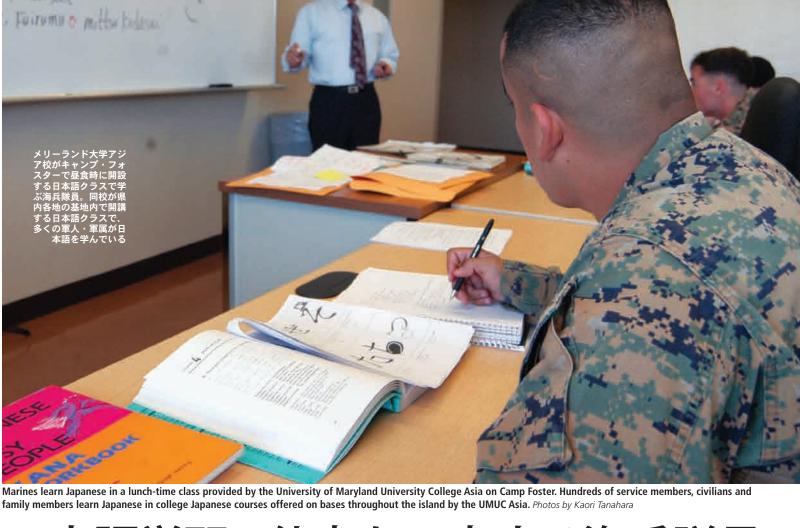
"My future ambition is to come back to Japan when I'm done with the military, teach English and immerse myself more in the language and culture."

Asao Fukuyama, one of the university's Japanese-language instructors, said his students' diligence has motivated him to teach on base for the last 23 years.

"I always tell my students how much I respect them for studying Japanese while also working full time," said Fukuyama. "It gives me such pleasure when my students happily report to me that they used what they had learned in real off-base situations."



Lance Cpl. Morgan Francies, of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, takes notes during JAPN 111 Feb. 6 at Camp Foster Education Center. 2月6日、キャンプ・フォスター教育セ ンターで行われたJAPN111を受講中、ノートを取る第1海 兵航空団本部第1中隊所属のモーガン・フランシス上等兵



family members learn Japanese in college Japanese courses offered on bases throughout the island by the UMUC Asia. Photos by Kaori Tanahara

本語学習、仕事を両立する海兵隊員

忙な仕事や訓練の合間を縫 多くの海兵隊員が在 沖米軍基地内の大学で日本 -語を学び、新しい世界が開ける興奮を 体験している。

メリーランド大学アジア校(UMUC Asia) によると、2006-7年度第3学期 (1月22日から3月17日) の基礎・ 中級日本語の12講座に軍人・軍属合 せて約250名が登録した。年間5学期 制の同校では、各学期ほぼ同数の講座 が提供されている。

日本で働き暮らしている彼らが、日 本語を学習するのは至極当たり前に聞 こえるかもしれない。だが、世界の共 通語と言われる英語に対し、日本勤務 が終われば使い道が非常に限られる外 国語を、多くの軍人・軍属が大学で学 ぶ理由は何だろうか。UMUCアジア校 の第3学期に日本語基礎111と112で 学ぶ4人に話を聞いた。

海兵航空団本部第1中隊所属のモー ガン・フランシス上等兵は、キャン プ・フォスターの教育センターで週 4日、昼食時に開講している日本語基

赴任して一年余。「外国語を学びなが ら実際に使える絶好の機会」を逃す方 はないと考え受講を決めた。語学の基 礎だけでなく、日本の文化や伝統、人 々の考え方も学べる授業が楽しいと話 すフランシス上等兵。基地外に出る時 は講師の教えの通り、「これは何です か」や「コーヒーを下さい」など、習 いたての会話をできる限り練習するよ うに心がけているという。「もっと早 くに始めれば良かった。次の学期も続 けて取るつもり。言葉がわかれば、将 来転勤で沖縄にぜひ戻りたいと思うで しょうね。」

キャンプ・コートニーで週に2回、 夕方に開講しているJAPN111を受講 するのは、第12海兵連隊第3大隊所属 のラビンドラ・マハデオ2等軍曹。沖 縄には2003年に赴任したが、職場で は中堅として、家庭では2児の子育て に追われる日常の中、日本人や地域と 接触する機会はごく限られていた。昨 年、5歳の娘をうるま市内の保育園に 通わせ始めたのがきっかけで、日本語

う。日本語を学習したことで、身近な 地域への興味と理解が増したと話す。

月曜と水曜の夜、キャンプ・フォス ターで8時に始まるJAPN112に出席す るため、基地間シャトルバスの最終便 でキャンプ・シュワーブ (名護) とキ ャンプ・ハンセン(金武)から通うの は、第3海兵師団戦闘強襲大隊所属の フィリップ・チャン伍長と第12海兵 連隊第3大隊所属のザッカリー・ニエ ミ上等兵。10時45分に授業が終わる と、帰りは同じクラスを受講する友人 の車に乗せてもらい、部屋に着くのは 二人とも11時半頃という。

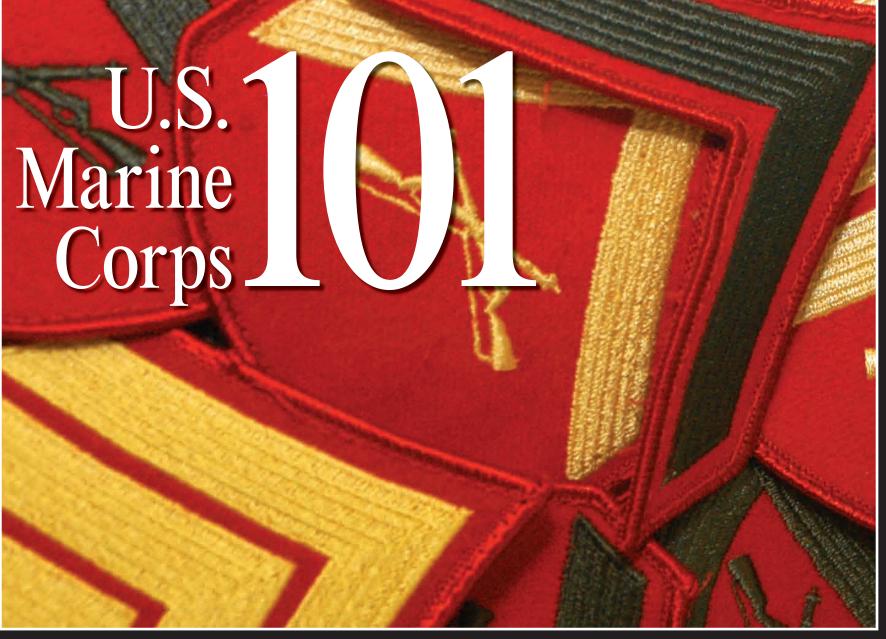
少年時代から英語や中国語に翻訳さ れた日本の漫画に親しんだチャン伍長 は、姉が日本に留学・就職経験があ り、その影響で以前から日本や日本語 に興味があったという。受講の動機に ついて「ボランティアで英語を教えて いる名護の小学校や幼稚園の子供たち と、日本語も使ってもっと話がしたい と思った」と語った。

マサチューセッツ州に育ったニエ

ミ上等兵が日本文化に触れる機会は 限られていた。軍の異動で沖縄に来 ていなければ日本語を学ぼうとは思 わなかっただろうと話す。「言葉が 理解できることで、互いにもっと分 かり合えるんだと考えるだけで嬉し くなる。いろんなことがこれまで以 上に楽しくなり、苦労も報われるよ う、と話した。彼の究極の目標は、 読み書きが完全にできるようになる まで勉強を続けること。「いずれ軍 の任期を終えたら、日本に戻り英語 を教えながら日本にどっぷりつかり たい」と語った。

learning Japanese

同大で日本語を教える講師の一人の 譜久山朝夫氏は、23年間基地で教え て来られたのは勤勉な生徒らのおかげ と話す。「いつも生徒に言うのです が、僕は皆さんを本当に尊敬してい る。フルタイムの仕事をもっていて、 その後に勉強しているのですから、 と。学生が授業で学んだことを実践し て成功した、と報告に来たときなどは 本当に嬉しいですね。





SSgt. Shawn McPhail has his blue dress uniform fitted upon getting a promotion at the Military **Clothing Shop on** Camp Foster in March. Service members are responsible for the upkeep of their uniforms throughout heir military career. 昇進を前にした3月、<u>キ</u> ャンプ・フォスターの軍 友料品店で、ドレスブル -の制服の寸法直しをし てもらうショーン・マク ファイル2等軍曹。軍に 所属中、隊員らは制服 を各自で維持管理する hotos by Kaori Tanahara

> A seamstress sews a chevron to a service

山型の階級章を縫い作



Uniforms integral part of Marine Corps tradition

Kaori Tanahara

The topic for this edition's Marine Corps 101 is the uniform that distinguishes Marines from members military courts-martial (military of other services and serves as a symbol of esprit de corps among Marines.

Like uniforms everywhere, Marine Corps uniforms distinguish its members from those of other services and organizations. They also help promote order, loyalty and discipline within the Corps, while creating self esteem and camaraderie among Marines.

Throughout its 231-year history, the Marine Corps uniforms have changed many times but they always serve as a symbol of pride and bravery.

Today, Marines wear a variety of uniforms, which are categorized in three types: dress, service and utilities, which are necessary to meet various operational and mission requirements.

As civilians wear formal attire for special occasions, Marines to wear dress uniforms prescribed by the Marine Corps.

There are three types of dress uniforms: blue, blue white, and evening. Of the three, blue is probably the most frequently worn dress uniform for ceremonial occasions such as Marine Corps Birthday Balls and weddings. Used in recruit posters and other publicity materials, dress blues are readily recognized by Americans as being a Marine Corps uniform. It is the only U.S. military uniform that incorporates all three colors of the national flag and has remained basically the same since the 19th century.

Blue whites are worn during summer months by officers and staff noncommissioned officers. uniform is the evening dress and is equivalent to a civilian tuxedo.

Service uniforms, which are the equivalent to business dress in the civilian world, are worn at criminal trials) and other special occasions such as meetings with foreign and national dignitaries and other meetings where protocol and decorum are important. Service uniforms consist of a khaki long- or short- sleeved shirt, a belt, and olive green trousers and jacket.

The camouflage uniform worn for daily duty is called the utility uniform. Whether on duty in the field or on base, Marines wear either green "woodland" or tan "desert" camouflage uniforms. Until 2001, Marines wore the same camouflage pattern as U.S. Army service members, but now Marines wear a digital pattern unique to Marine Corps. The current utility uniform is a vast improvement over previous camouflage uniforms, as it is fastdrying and heat-resistant, and it affords Marines an increased are required on certain occasions range of motion when using their arms and legs.

> Marines must follow strict and detailed regulations regarding the wear and care of their uniforms. For instance, following a transition between the winter and the summer uniform policy, Marines have to roll their sleeves up or down on their utility uniforms on certain days as designated by their local commanders.

During the summer, threeinches-wide rolled sleeves need to be two inches up from inner elbow. Also, junior Marines are subject to an unannounced uniform inspection at all times.

Marines are not allowed to wear their utility uniforms outside military bases except to commute directly from home to work, which is a unique regula-The most formal style of Marine tion of the Marine Corps.

Americans enjoy Okinawan foods, assist researchers

Kaori Tanahara

wo weeks after starting a traditional Okinawan diet, the constant pain Helen Brathwaite had in her body had disappeared and she no longer needs a cane to walk.

Brathwaite, a 69-year-old school teacher, and nearly 150 other Americans, ages 40 to 69, from the U.S. military community on Okinawa recently participated in the medical "Chample Study 3." Study participants followed a traditional Okinawan diet for lunch and dinner four days per week for four weeks. Their participation will help local researchers to learn how following a traditional Okinawan diet affects the health of Westerners.

While Brathwaite's experience was unusual, it provided the researchers further evidence of the beneficial effects of the traditional Okinawan diet.

While two previous studies were conducted on Okinawans of two different age groups, the Chample Study 3 focused on Westerners, according to Dr. Hidemi Todoriki, principal researcher of the study and a professor at the University of the Ryukyus.

"By having Americans who don't generally eat Okinawan or Japanese foods as our study subjects, we expect the results to show greater positive benefits for our American subjects."

Although participants in the previous studies were given local vegetables to cook themselves, Americans, who are not familiar with those ingredients,



Each meal consists of rice, soup and three side dishes rich with traditional Okinawan foods like goya. メニューは ゴーヤーなど沖縄の伝統的な食材を使っ た一汁三采 Photo by Kaori Tanahara

were provided with precooked single-portion meals and goya (bitter melon) juice prepared by local companies as their primary diet during the four weeks they participated in the study. Participants were also required to go to hospitals for health check ups on designated days and record their blood pressure everyday.

Todoriki said that while keeping the Okinawan diet menu as its base, the Okinawan food company also developed many new recipes to make the meals that were more appetizing to Americans. Some of the meals were introduced in the book "The Okinawan Diet Plan," co-authored by Dr. Craig Willcox, an assistant professor with the Okinawa Prefectural University-College of Nursing and co-researcher of the study.

For centuries, the traditional Okinawan diet has been a major contributing factor to the longevity of Okinawans, said Willcox.

However, researchers fear that Okinawan foods may be getting pushed aside as Okinawans consume more

As a result, according to the Okinawa Prefectural Institute of Health and Environment,

American-style "fast foods."

Chample Study 3 participant Krista Hurley, Department of

teacher, tastes Okinawan lunch meal at home March 28. 3月

3参加者で国防省管轄校教師のク リスタ・ハーリーさん Photo by

Okinawans now have the highest rate of obesity in Japan, and average life expectancies are now in decline.

While many of the American participants were anxious about tasting unfamiliar local vegetables, tofu and seaweed, being on the study's special diet gave the participants the chance to become familiar with many foods central to the traditional Okinawan diet. Some participants also felt positive effects soon after they started in the program as was the case of Brathwaite. Krista Hurley said her blood pressure went down after she started her program, and Don Tusha said he felt "lighter and more

energetic" on the diet.

Staci Rosen, the wellness director for Marine Corps Community Services, served as liaison between the researchers and the American military community. "From the public health perspective, if we can show that there is a link between the nutrition factors and Okinawan longevity and learn something from that for health promotional purposes, that is wonderful," said Rosen. "But the main thing is the collaboration, with the two communities working together."

"Each study is significant for us to gather scientific evidence," said Todoriki. Americans' response has been great, thanks to the efforts of everyone involved. I take off my hat to the base volunteers who devoted their time to help us."





 △ Local vegetables used in the Chample Study 3 sit on display. チャンプルー・スタディー3で使われた地 元の野菜 Photo by Lance Cpl. David Rogers

«Jim Kassebaum, Marine Corps Community Services marketing director, enjoys tofu miso soup and papaya. 豆腐の味噌汁とパパイヤ炒めの ランチを食べるチャンプルー・スタディー3参加者ジ キャセバームさん Photo by Kaori Tanahara



Service members put smiles on children's faces

Kaori Tanahara

hirty-five Marines and sailors from units on Okinawa spent an eventful day with children and adults at the Okinawa Children's Development Center March 29.

Together, they danced to music, played indoor golf, raced on the track, and shared laughter.

The service members participated in three recreational sessions at the center, a residence and day care facility for physically-disabled children and adults.

Participating in an adults' group, service members enjoyed origami-craft making and "bird golf," which is a game for the physically-disabled. Mixed in with Okinawans and divided into two teams, the service members helped their teams score points by assisting the Okinawans hit an inverted shuttlecock with golf clubs into an open umbrella placed several feet in front of

In the meantime, Marines and the group of 25 OCDC residents took their recreation outside, taking advantage of a pleasant spring morning. Paired with the children, the service members pushed wheel-chairs to a nearby park, where they had a relay race at a track. Then, some of



Marines and the Okinawa Children's Development Center's children take a walk together March 29. 3月29日、沖縄小児発達センターの児童らと散歩する海兵隊員ら

the Marines demonstrated a power-walk relay race to entertain the children on the sidelines.

"Getting out and feeling the air on their face is the best way to relive stress for those with a severe physical impairment," said OCDC chief nursery staff Etsuko Yamada. "Today, through their interaction with the volunteers, I saw big smiles and lively expression on the children's faces that we don't normally see inside."

"It was a blessing to be able to help the disabled children and see the smiles on their faces," said Sgt. Euqirne Drum, who volunteered along with fellow Marines of Headquarters Company, Marine Wing Communication Squadron-18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

"I volunteered because I have a son, and I know how much he loves to play and how much fun he likes to have. I wanted to help the children have their time to play and have fun because they deserve that."

Another group of Marines joined in musical recreation, where they danced and played instruments to rhythmic tunes as they held the children in their arms.

"Children love American volunteers and enjoy the companionship they exhibit here," said Sanae Tamanaha, the Marine Corps liaison at OCDC.

Okinawa-based service members had regularly visited the center to spend time with the residents and to help with the facility's upkeep over the past two decades, according to Tamanaha.

"The volunteers gently push wheelchairs and compassionately hold children in their arms when we are too busy doing other duties," said Tamanaha.

"People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care," said Navy Lt. Jeff Parks, chaplain, 3rd Marine Division, who enjoyed the day with the adults group. "I consider myself privileged to provide a moment's kindness to these champions, and so do our Marines and sailors. It brings real spiritual joy to assist in this ministry of love."



Lance Cpl. Tina Mirles, Headquarters & Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, holds Shota Tengan, 6, during a musical recreation session. 沖縄小児発達センターで3月29日、天願翔太くん(6)を抱いて音楽レク活動中に参加する海兵隊基地キャンプ・バトラー本部役務大隊所属のティナ・マールズ上等兵

子供たちに最高の 笑顔を贈る米軍人

と表情を見ることができた」と語って、室内ではなかなか見ることのでは、競技トラットで出て顔に風を感じることが一番ので出て顔に風を感じることが一番ので出て顔に風を感じることが一番ので出て顔に風を感じることが一番のではなかなか見ることが一番のではなかなか見ることが一番のではなかなか見ることが一番のではなかなか見ることができた」と語って表情を見ることができた」と語のできた」と話りる場面も。

設の整備などの目的で見たがしているという。 に訪問しているという。 に訪問しているという。 がくらかでも手助けて がくらかでも手助けて で手が空かないとっては で手がであるいとっては で手がでしたがでも手助けて で手がでかっているという。

ときなど、どれだけ思っては有難いもの、と ながどれだけでいたり、子供いとっては有難いもの、と ながどれだけでいたり、子供いとので流を楽しん ながどれだけでいたり、子供いたがどれます。 こはなく、どれだけであった。 ながどれだけであった。 ながどれだけであった。 ながどれだけであった。 ないう。 でいる」と話す。玉那覇さんに、でいる」と話す。 玉那覇早苗さんは、「子供たちはアーカーなどを加し、子供た伝いができればと思って参加しまた。 楽しいことが大好きです。 一世ンター職員で海兵隊側との連って一手である。 から いっぱ アイアが大好きで でいる」と話す。 玉那覇早苗さんは、「子供たちはアスのボランティアが大好きで、交流のボランティアが大好きで、交流のボランティアが大好きで、交流のボランティアが大好きで、交流のボランティアが大好きで、交流のボランティアが大好きで、交流のボランティアが大好きで、交流のボランティアが大好きで、交流のボランティアが大好きで、

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↑めまして!私は先日初めて 基地内のフリーマーケット かったです。私としては切手やボタ ン・手芸用品がフリマ品としてあれ ば嬉しいと思ったのですが、今回は 見つからず、いつか出会えると思っ てまた行こうと思います。こういう フリマはやって正解だと思います。 アメリカやその他の国の方々と直接 話せたり、彼らの生活感が感じ取れ たりできるのが最高だと思います。 色々な方々へ、フリマの良さや楽し さなどを知って貰いたいですね。 又、来週もフリマを楽しみにしてま す。これから暑くなりますが、スタ ッフの皆さまも頑張ってください。

宜野湾市 日高美幸

reetings! The other day, I went to a flea market on base for the first time. I had a really good time. Although, I didn't see the things I was hoping to find there, such as postal stamps and buttons and other handicrafts goods. I hope that I will find them and plan to go back again.

Flea markets on base work really well, I think, because Japanese visitors can have direct communications with Americans and other foreign nationals and get a sense of their lifestyles. I want many people to know about the flea markets and how they work. I am looking forward to the one next week. It is getting hot. Please take care of yourselves, staff members, and keep up the good work.

Miyuki Hidaka **Ginowan City**

eader esponse

── 年の秋、夫の転勤を機に ┷故郷の沖縄からアメリカ へ引っ越してきました。 新天地での生活は、色々と慣れない 事も多くカルチャーショックもあり ました。そんなある日、久し振りに インターネットで「大きな輪」を目 にしていると、元気を貰っている自 分に気付きました。在沖海兵隊員の 人達は、母国から離れて淋しい想い やホームシックもあるだろうに...軍 人という任務以外に『人』として沖 縄の文化や沖縄の人達を理解し、学 ぼうと努力しているんだなっ、と感 心させられました。私も実際、ここ アメリカでは外国人です。

やはり知らない文化や環境を受 け入れるという事は容易な事ではあ りません。でも「大きな輪」は母国 を離れながらも前向きな姿勢を忘れ ないでと私の心に伝えてくれまし た。ありがとう…「大きな輪」

BigCircle Snapshot

ユタ州 バーベラ郁子

ast fall, I moved from Okinawa to America because of my husband's job transfer. Living in an environment that I am not used to, I have experienced many cultural shocks since we start living here. One day, when I was reading the *Big Circle* online for the first time in a while, I found my feelings were lightened up.

I was inspired to learn that despite the homesickness the Marines on Okinawa must experience away from home, they are making efforts to understand and learn about the people and culture of Okinawa while fulfilling their military duties. I am actually a foreigner here in the States. Indeed, accepting an unfamiliar culture

Petty Officer 2nd Class Oliver

Okinawan child from Hamada

Nursery School collect Easter

Hansen Parade Deck. More than

120 Okinawan children from five

nursery schools in Kin Town took

part in an Easter fun day hosted

by corpsmen with 3rd Medical

Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics

corpsmen with 3rd Medical Bn.

3rd MLG. キャンプ・ハンセンのパ レードデッキで4月13日に行われた 復活祭の卵狩りで、はまだ保育園

の4歳児を手助けをするオリバー・

フローレス2等軍曹。第3海兵兵站

群第3医療大隊の衛生兵が主催した

イースターのお楽しみに金武町の

5つの保育園から120名余の子ども

たちが参加した。フローレス2等軍

曹も同大隊の衛生兵のひとりPhoto

by Lance Cpl. Richard Blumenstein

Group. Flores is a hospital

eggs April 13 at the Camp

D. Flores helps a 4-year-old



and environment is not that easy of a thing to do. However, Big Circle reminded me to keep a positive attitude while living away from my home. Thanks, Big Circle!

Ikuko Barbera Utah

ーのキャンプ・サービス 主催のボランティア・プログラム に、海兵隊員や水兵らと共に参加し ています。日本の小学校で英語を教 えるために基地の外に出かけ、そこ で出会う子供たちとの交流を楽しん でいます。

最近では、老人ホームを訪問 し、施設の清掃を行いました。お年 寄りの方々は訪問者が来たことをと ても喜んでくれ、私たちのお手伝い に何度も感謝してくださいました。 障害を持った児童の施設も訪問しま した。屋外で子供たちととても楽し いひと時を過ごしました。私たちは それぞれ車いすを押して近くの公園 まで出かけ、交代で押しながら車い す競争をしました。子供たちは本当 に大はしゃぎでした!隊員らが彼ら の車いすを持ち上げ、勝利の胴上げ をした時は特に!

と訪問先の地元の方々との通訳もし ています。言葉の壁にもかかわら ず、互いに交流できるのは素晴らし い体験ですが、会話や指示の内容を 私の通訳で理解できることで、より 事がスムーズに運び、みなさんのお 役に立っているのではと思います。

キャンプ・フォスター 小池深雪

は海兵隊員の妻で、海兵 隊基地キャンプ・バトラ

私はまた日本人として、隊員ら

みなさんもこの素晴らしいボラ ンティア・プログラムにぜひ参加さ れてはどうでしょうか。沖縄の文化 を学べ、私たちの感謝の気持ちを地 域コミュニティーに伝えられる素晴 らしい方法だと思います。

T am a Marine wife and I participate in Marine L Corps Base Camp Services volunteer programs together with Marines and sailors. I

enjoy seeing the children and interacting with them when we go off base to teach English at local Japanese elementary schools.

Recently we visited an elderly nursing home and cleaned their facility. The elderly residents were very happy to see new faces and thanked us many times for our help. We also paid a visit to a handicapped children's home. We had a great time outdoors with the children.

We each pushed them in their wheelchairs to the nearby park and took turns pushing in the wheelchair races. The children absolutely loved it, especially when the Marines lifted the children in their wheelchairs up in the air for a victory celebration!

As I am Japanese, I also worked as a translator between Marines and sailors and the local nationals at the places of our visit. While it is a great experience for them to interact with one another despite the language barrier, my bilingual ability helped smooth things over, and everyone benefited from understanding what was said.

I felt it was an enriching experience serving as a cultural bridge between the two countries.

I invite everyone to come out and participate in this great volunteer program. It is a won-

derful way to learn the local culture and show our appreciation to the local community.

Miyuki Koike Camp Foster

▲きな輪 Winter2006-07」で初めて貴誌を知り ました。貴誌を読み、基 地と地元沖縄の人達が、これほど密 に交流をしている事を知り、感動 し、楽しく読ませて頂きました。

記事も英文・和文と両方あるの で、分かり易くて良かったです。こ れから、英語を学びたいという方に も、すごく勉強になり喜ばれる雑誌 だと思いました。これからも、基地 と地元・沖縄を繋ぐ架け橋として、 がんばって下さい。

次号も「大きな輪」を楽しみに しています。

宜野湾市 新里まりこ

learned about *Big Circle* Magazine for the first time through the Winter 2006-07 edition. I enjoyed reading the articles about the people who live and work on the bases and their close interaction with the Okinawan community, which was very moving.

It was easy to understand the articles because they were written in English and Japanese. Your magazine is very useful for people who want to learn English. Please keep up the good work bridging the gap between the bases and local Okinawan communities.

I am looking forward to the next edition of Big Circle.

Mariko Shinzato **Ginowan City**

大きな輪 あて先

〒901-2300 北中城村石平在沖海兵隊基地 Bldg. 1, CPAO (UNIT 35001) 大きな輪 編集係

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(098) 893-9742

基地内

イベントカレンダー

5月5・6日12:00-15:00

コートニー・ フリーマーケット

5月12・13日7:00-10:00

キンザー・ フリーマーケット

5月19・20日12:00-15:00

キャンプ・シュワーブ

5月26日 (1500-2200) 27日(1300-2200)*台風の 場合6月2・3日に順延

コートニー・ フリーマーケット

5月26・27日7:00 10:00

6月2・3日12:00-15:00

コートニー・ フリーマーケット

フリーマーケット

6月9・10日7:00-10:00

キンザー・フリーマーケット

6月16・17日12:00-15:00

コートニー・ フリーマーケット

6月23・24日7:00-10:00

コートニー・ フリーマーケット

6月30・7月1日7:00-10:00

フォスター・フリーマーケット

7月7・8日12:00-15:00

キャンプ・ハンセン 7月7日 (1500-2200) 8日(1300-2200)*台風の場 合7月14・15日に順延

コートニー・フリーマーケット

7月14・15日7:00-10:00 キンザー・フリーマーケット

7月21・22日12:00-15:00

コートニー・フリーマーケット

7月28・29日7:00-10:00

MCCS オープン スポーツ日程

CC/CG杯の日程、その他の情報 をお求めの方は、在日海兵隊日本語ウ ェブサイト http://www.kanji.okinawa. usmc.mil/ で毎月更新されている基地 内イベントをご利用ください。

海兵隊員やその家族のボランティアによ る社会人向け英会話教室は、キャンプ・ シュワーブ(名護市)とキャンプ・コー トニー (うるま市) で開催しています。 詳しくは、19ページ掲載の各キャンプ渉 外官までお問い合わせください。

フリーマーケット お知らせ

電話で確認できます。海兵隊基地交換 (098) 911 - 5111 を通し、内線 語に続いて、日本語のアナウンスが 流れます。尚、出店は米軍・軍属の ID所持者に限らせていただいていま す。奮ってご来場ください!

Interpersonal encounters foster circle of friendship

Michiko Urasaki

Twork at the Personal Services Center, Ma-Services, located on Camp Foster. Having more than 1,500 employees, MCCS is an organization that

provides a wide range of services designed to assist Marine Corps and Department of Defense community members, including managing facilities such as restaurants, libraries, gyms, and other recreational establishments on Marine Corps bases.

As a MCCS community relations specialist, I help military and family members

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

become familiar with Japanese culture and customs and adjust themselves **PERSPECTIVE** to the environment here through the Cultural Adaptation Program, which is

one of the programs offered by the PSC.

To be specific, we provide a cultural brief at Newcomers, Joint Reception Center, and other command orientation programs. We also offer basic Japanese language class and cultural classes such as calligraphy, origami, cooking, and flower arrangement. We also conduct field trips and other tours and activities for our customers to learn things central to Japanese and Okinawan cultures and lifestyles.

Learning the Japanese language and culture has become much more popular among Americans over the last 15 years. Many now speak Japanese to better communicate with their Japanese friends, enjoy Japanese food, and decorate their home and work places using kimonos and origami.

The PSC also promotes friendly and meaningful exchanges between the military and local communities by coordinating various types of volunteer programs for units, church groups, spouses' groups, and other organizations on Marine Corps bases.

I coordinate volunteer programs, which not only help local communities, but also give Marines and their families an opportunity to make friends in the local community at the grass-roots level. Through the programs, I have met many wonderful people and I would like to share with you some of those beautiful memories.

Last summer, I took a group of young Marines from Camp Hansen along with a base chaplain to a senior citizen's home in Okinawa City. After they cleaned up the yard and cut the grass, the Marines joined the senior citizens who resided at the facility in a game of croquet. While they were playing, everyone laughed, clapped and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company. The senior citizens smiled as if they were watching over their grandchildren. It was a great time for both the young Marines and the senior citizens, as their laughter

transcended their different generations and nationalities.

Another time, I visited a disabled children's school with Marines from Camp Foster. It was such a surprise to see often large and muscular Marines touching and holding up fragile children so gently and kindly. It was so heartwarming and something that is not normally imagined when thinking of Marines in uniform. On another occasion, I was deeply impressed with the children's delightful smiles as they received homemade cookies of various shapes donated by a wives' group and from the happiness they displayed after a young female Marine volunteered her time to draw a wall mural for the children's home.

I have met so many wonderful and heartwarming people on many different occasions. The Japanese tea ceremony doctrine teaches the philosophy of life, "Ichigo Ichie," which means making the most of once-in-a-lifetime chances by giving all people your best efforts. I deeply appreciate everyone who supports and participates in the PSC cultural programs. I truly hope Marines and family members enjoy their interaction with the people and cultures of Japan and Okinawa, and that they will take back many beautiful memories as well as friendships when they return to the United States.

Michiko Urasaki is the MCCS Community

渉外官への お問合せは

Community Relations Specialists

基地渉外官は、海兵隊各基地と地域

各基地の**渉外活動**については、下記 までお問合せください。

Eメールでご連絡される場合は、 okinawa.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil まで。 名をご記入ください。

623-4509

コートニー (うるま市)

普天間(宜野湾市) 636-2022

キンザー(浦添市) 637-1347

各基地

社会との架け橋です。

海兵隊基地への電話は、代表番号 [交換] 098-911-5111の後に、以下の内 線につないでもらいます。

件名の欄に、お問合わせ先のキャンプ

シュワーブ (名護市) 625-2544

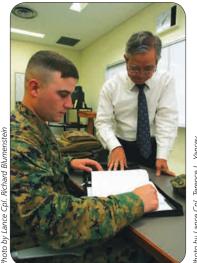
ハンセン(金武町)

622-9561

フォスター(北谷町・他) 645-7766

海軍病院(レスター内・北谷町)





沖縄で文化体験に期待する海兵隊員

pg. 8

日本語を学ぶ

pg. 4

大きな輪

BIG CIRCLE



10

心機一転

海兵隊基地で働き初めた日本人従業員。大きな輪が行った アンケートを通し体験を語る

海兵隊101 | 海兵隊ユニフォーム

海兵隊231年の歴史を通し、誇りと勇気の象徴となった ユニフォーム

心の糧 12 沖縄の伝統食が西洋人の健康に与える効果について、

研究者の調査に協力する約150名のアメリカ人基地関係者

手を差し伸べる 14

沖縄小児発達センターの児童や成人と、共に遊び、踊り、 楽しいひとときを過ごす海兵隊員や水兵ら

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小さな出会いからはじまる交流の輪

(MCCS) のパーソナルサービスセ ンター(PSC) です。MCCSは1,500名 余が勤務する大きな組織で、在沖軍 人やその家族を支援する機関として 様々なプログラムを提供する他、海

兵隊基地内のレストラン、図 書館、体育館、娯楽施設等も 運営しています。

私はPSCの日本文化課に所 属し、軍人や家族が日本の文 化や習慣を学びながら、少し でも新しい環境に慣れるよう お手伝いをさせていたただい

ています。主な内容として、 沖縄に赴任したばかりの軍人や軍で 働く民間人、そして彼らの家族に日 本文化や習慣に関するオリエンテー ションを提供する他、日本語クラス

の職場はキャンプ・フォス や、書道、折り紙、料理、生け花等 ター(キャンプ瑞慶覧)に の文化講座のコーディネート、そし て基地近辺を案内するツアー等があ

ここ十数年、在沖米軍人やその家 族の間で日本語や日本文化の人気は 年々高まりを見せています。日本語 を学び、地元の人達と親しくおつき 合いをする人や、和食を楽しみ、自 宅や職場に着物や折り紙等を飾って 日本文化に親しんでいる人達をよく 目にします。

PSCでは、基地外でボランティア 活動を希望する部隊や教会グルー プ、婦人団体に対して軍と地域の人 達との草の根の国際交流ができれば と、様々なプログラムを企画してき ました。ボランテイア作業や地元の 祭りへの参加は、地域の人達とより 深く関わり合えるいい機会です。こ れまでの多くの思い出の中から、皆

さんと共有したいステキな風景を幾 つか紹介します。

昨夏、キャンプ・ハンセンの牧師 さんの引率で、若い軍人達15名ほど が沖縄市の老人ホーム施設の奉仕作 業に参加しました。施設の草刈りや 掃除をした後、おじいちゃん、おば あちゃん達のゲートボールに若い彼 らが加わり、ボールを追っかける若 者たちのはしゃぎ声と、孫を見守る ようなおばあちゃん達の笑顔は、そ れこそ国や年齢を超えた和やかで平 和なひと時でした。

また、ある障害児施設で子供たち と遊んだとき、海兵隊の若者たち が、大きな体で小さな子供達をやさ しく抱き上げていたわる姿は、あの ごっつい海兵隊の軍服姿からは少し 想像しにくい、繊細で心温まる情景 でした。他にも、ある基地の婦人グ ループからいろいろな形の手造りク

ッキーをプレゼントされた時の子供 達の嬉しそうな顔や、一人でこつこ つと施設の廊下の壁に絵を描いてく れた若い女性軍人など、様々な機会 を通し、心優しい人たちとの出会い が数多くありました。

茶道の心得に「一期一会」とい う言葉があり、誠意を持って人と 接する大切さを教えています。私 もこの精神で努力しながら、これ までPSCのプログラムに参加、協力 して下さった皆様に感謝すると同 時に、プログラムを通してより多 くの軍人や家族が日本を学び、地 元の人達とふれ合い、そして楽し い思い出をつくり、更に帰国後も 交流の輪を広げる事が出来たら光 栄に思います。

(MCCS PSC日本文化紹介担当)

2007年 春号

うれしい勝利

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